

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF/C:DLCARDWELL:LA

APPROVED BY:AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

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P 012049Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268565

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 8986 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USAI,
CDC ATLANTA DTD 27 OCT 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8986

STATE FOR PA, M/MED, AF/C, PEACE CORPS/WASH, AID/WASH

USIA FOR IOP, IAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: INFECTIOUS DISEASE SITREP (IV)

REF: STATE 262570

FOLLOWING IS SITREP AS OF OCT 27:

(A) FACTS: SURVEY TEAM ETA KINSHASA 1600 HOURS OCT 27.
PRELIMINARY RADIO REPORT LATE OCT 26 FROM CDC MEMBER BREMEN IN
BUMBA QUARANTINE ZONE INDICATES 325 CASES AND 300 DEATHS AFTER
SURVEY OF 66 VILLAGES, 43 OF WHICH WERE INFECTED. TWO DEATHS
REPORTED OCT 24, ACTIVE CASES IN EIGHT VILLAGES WITH TWO MORE
VILLAGES STILL TO BE CHECKED. SERIAL TRANSMISSION THROUGH
FOUR GENERATIONS. INCUBATION PERIOD 7-18 DAYS WITH PREGNANT
WOMEN HAVING INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY. CONFIRMATION THAT DISEASE
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SPREAD BY FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS AS WELL AS CLOSE CONTACT

WITH CADAVERS. (FOREGOING TENTATIVE REPORT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED OR BROADLY DISSEMINATED UNTIL UP-COUNTRY TEAM HAS GIVEN US FULL FACTS AND GOZ HAS ARRANGED FOR PUBLICATION. WILL ADVISE. DRS. JOHNSON AND BREMEN WILL REPORT FULLY.)

NO CHANGE IN KINSHASA SITUATION. MINHEALTH NGUETE APPEARED OCT 26 KINSHASA TV PRIME TIME EVENING NEWS WITH APPROX 15-MINUTE FRENCH/LINGALA PRESENTATION DESIGNED TO ASSURE GENERAL POPULATION THAT SITUATION WELL IN HAND. WHILE PRESENTATION MADE NO MENTION OF NUMBER OF DEATHS, DR. NGUETE DID STRESS THAT -- CONTRARY TO RUMORS CIRCULATING KINSHASA -- VIRUS NOT TRANSMITTED BY FOOD, E.G., MEAT, RICE OR SMOKED FISH, LATTER TWO BEING STAPLES OF URBAN POPULATION DIET. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED, IN OBVIOUS PITCH TO KINSHASA HOSPITALS STAFF, PREVENTION/ISOLATION TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT NOW ON HAND. SHORTER RADIO VERSION BROADCAST MORNING AND NOON NEWS OCT 27, BUT NO APPEARANCE THUS FAR IN PRINT MEDIA.

MISSION HAS NOT YET RECEIVED GOZ REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. NEEDS, COST SPECIFICS, TO BE DETERMINED AFTER DEBRIEFING OF QUARANTINE SURVEY TEAM.

(B) PRESS GUIDANCE: UNCHANGED. PCVS IN KINSHASA ISOLATION IN GOOD HEALTH WITH QUARANTINE TO END OCT 29 AND REASSIGNMENT ELSEWHERE IN ZAIRE WITHIN ONE WEEK. NO CONTACT WITH BUMBA QUARANTINE ZONE PCVS SINCE OCT 20 ALTHOUGH EXPECT FURTHER DETAILS OCT 28.

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UNQTE: KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE268565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/C:DLCARDWELL:LA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760407-0610
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761192/aaaadbyj.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 262570
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFECTIOUS DISEASE SITREP (IV)
TAGS: TBIO, CG
To: BANGUI KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006